

### REMARKS

Claims 1 - 4, as amended, remain for consideration in this application.

In view of the foregoing amendments and the discussion which follows, the Applicants submit that all of these claims are clearly allowable.

The title of the invention was objected to as being not descriptive. The title has been changed to be clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed.

Claim 5 was objected to and rejected for various reasons. Claim 5 has been cancelled.

Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,222,725 to Jo. Claim 1 has been amended. As applied to amended Claim 1, this rejection is respectively traversed. Claim 1, as amended, defines a circuit card package including a first circuit card (parent card) which is insertable into a connector on a backplane board. The first circuit card has a first card edge connector mounted thereon. The claimed circuit card package also includes an interface adaptor board secured to the first card edge connector on the first circuit card and oriented orthogonally to the first circuit card. Mounted to the interface adaptor board is at least one second card edge connector adapted to have secured thereto a respective one of at least one second circuit card (child card) oriented parallel to the first circuit card. The interface adaptor board is formed with wiring traces interconnecting terminals of the second card edge connector with corresponding terminals of the first card edge connector. Thus, child cards can be easily added to the parent card (without screws, nuts, standoffs, etc.) without requiring that the backplane be redesigned. In contrast, the patent to Jo discloses a conventional mother board 53 to which are connected a plurality of parallel circuit cards 14, as is conventional

in the art. None of the circuit cards of Jo includes a card edge connector mounted thereon with an interface adaptor board secured to the card edge connector and the interface adaptor board having mounted thereon its own card edge connector into which second circuit cards are insertable, as set forth in the Applicants' amended Claim 1. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully submit that amended Claim 1 is clearly patentable over Jo and respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection of Claim 1, as amended, under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by Jo.

Claim 2 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jo. This rejection is respectfully traversed. Claim 2 depends from Claim 1 and further recites specific bracket structure. The Applicants respectfully submit that for the reasons discussed above with respect to amended Claim 1, Claim 2 is likewise patentable over Jo and respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection of Claim 2 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Jo.

Claims 3-5 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jo in view of U.S. Patent No. 3,755,630 to Boyer. Claim 5 has been cancelled. As applied to Claims 3 and 4, this rejection is respectfully traversed. Claims 3 and 4 depend from Claim 2 and define a specific latch mechanism for preventing hot insertion of one of the second circuit cards. Boyer is cited for allegedly showing such a latching mechanism. However, Boyer does not make up for the deficiencies of Jo with respect to independent Claim 1, as discussed above. Thus, Boyer merely discloses a plurality of circuit cards connectable to a backplane. Accordingly, the applicants submit that Claims 3 and 4 are clearly patentable over Jo in view of Boyer and respectfully request withdrawal of the


rejection of Claims 3 and 4 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jo in view of Boyer.

Claims 1-4, as amended, remain for consideration in this application. In view of the foregoing amendments and discussion, the Applicants submit that all of these claims are clearly allowable and favorable action in that regard is earnestly solicited. If the Examiner is of the opinion that such action cannot be taken, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (732) 744-1001 ext. 19 to discuss this matter without the necessity for any further office action.

It is believed that no additional fee is due attributable to this amendment. Should there be any further fees required as a result of this amendment, the Examiner is authorized to charge deposit account number 19-1218.

Respectfully submitted,

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AMENDED CLAIM WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES

1. (Amended) A circuit card package, comprising:

a first circuit card insertable into a connector on a backplane and having a first card edge connector mounted thereon;

an interface adaptor board secured to said first card edge connector and oriented in a plane orthogonal to said first circuit card; and

at least one second card edge connector mounted to said interface adaptor board and adapted to have secured thereto a respective one of at least one second circuit card oriented parallel to said first circuit card[.];

wherein said interface adaptor board is formed with wiring traces interconnecting terminals of each of said at least one second card edge connector with corresponding terminals of said first card edge connector.